

POCAHONTAS COUNTY (Continued)

DROOP MOUNTAIN

Here, November 6, 1863, Union troops, commanded by General Averell, defeated Confederate forces under General Echols. This has been considered the most extensive engagement in this State and the site was made a State park in 1929.

RIDER GAP

In this mountain gap, through which came early pioneers, Gen. W. W. Loring camped, 1861, with 10,000 Confederates. In July, Gen. Lee succeeded him here. North and south is the mountain road which offers a hundred-mile sky line drive.

POCAHONTAS COUNTYLOCATION

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The geographical position of our county is defined from 37 degrees 40 minutes to 38 degrees 45 minutes north Latitude; from 79 degrees 35 minutes, to 80 degrees 24 minutes West Longitude.

Pocahontas is an eastern border county, Allegheny top being the line between Pocahontas and Virginia. From the venter of West Virginia, Pocahontas County is located to the southwest. Among the distinctive features of the north portion of this county is the fact of its being a part of the high region where nearly every river system of the Virginia's find their head springs. The entire county has a great elevation, some of the highest peaks in the state being within its limits. (From Historical Markers of Pocahontas County - State Library.)

LOCATION

Pocahontas is an eastern border county. Pocahontas County, in the Appalachian Highlands was formed in 1831 from parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph Counties. (Virginia) and named for Pocahontas, the Indian princess. Pocahontas County is bordered on the south by Greenbrier County and on the west by Nicholas and Fayette and on the north by Seabster County. (Blue Book, 1938)

AREA

The area of Pocahontas County is 942.61 square miles. $942.61 \times 640 = 603,270.4$
Pocahontas County is the third largest.

TYPE OF LAND

The County has been called the birthplace of rivers. The source of Cheat River flows from the northern part of Pocahontas County also the same applies to the Elk, except that its source is from the western part of the county. The source of Gauley River is also from the western part. The Greenbrier River's source is from the northern part of Pocahontas County. The source of the Tygart River is from the northern part of Pocahontas County. The Silliams, Cranberry and Cherry, the

other mentioned rivers have their rise in this county and all flow to the westward.

East Pocahontas is mountainous and in former years heavily timbered with white pine and much other valuable timber, and abounds in iron ore. Central Pocahontas consists largely of limestone lands.

Throughout the county there is such an abundance of purest, freshest waters as beggars all ordinary powers of description. Literally it is a land of springs and mountains, beyond the dreams of poetic fiction to portray realistically. Some of the streams gushing from the earth, even in midsummer show undiminished volume, and with a temperature but little above that of iced water. The entire county is seemingly underlaid with vast reservoirs, whose dimensions puzzle imagination, for from the level land as well as from the mountain sides pour forth great springs, many of them with volume sufficient to propel water mills. Larger streams thus starting from a hillside sometimes disappear only to appear elsewhere from some unexpected opening in the earth. Of this it is believed that Locust Creek furnishes a notable example in the relation to Hill Creek. (W. Va. Atlas)

SOIL

The soil of Pocahontas County is likewise diversified. In some sections the land is thin and in others rugged; but the greater portion is exceedingly fertile, and there cannot be found in this state, or any other state, a locality better adapted to grazing and farming. - (From a Reminiscence History of Northern W. Va.)

TOPOGRAPHY

The county is very mountainous and has a number of mountain peaks reaching 4,000 feet in height, among which may be named Bald Knob, Kate Knob, Gibben Knob, Spruce Knob of Elk, Spruce Knob of Williams River, Barlow Top and Briery Knob. The Droop Mountain Battlefield, in this county, is the site of the most extensive Civil War battle fought in the state, which occurred on ^{NOW} November 6, 1863. It was acquired by the State in 1929, and is now a Battlefield Park. (W. Va. Standard Atlas).

CLIMATE - BLUE BOOK 1938

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE
ANNUAL

STATION	COUNTY	LENGTH OF RECORD (YRS)	TEMPERATURE
Marlinton	Pocahontas	39 years	48.1 deg.

The average Maximum temperature (annual) is 59.5. The average minimum temperature is 36.4.

The average rainfall 47.26 (forty-seven inches and 26 hundredths). The average number of days .01 inch or more - 121. The average annual Snowfall is 81 in. 6/10 tenths.

HISTORIC MARKERS

From the standpoint of climate, Pocahontas is subject to severe winters and ideal summers. The rainfall averages 47 inches.

Magisterial Districts (4) as follows: Edray, Greenbank, Huntersville, Little Levels.

Incorporated Cities, Towns and Villages:

NAME	POPULATION
Cass, W. Va.	
Durbin, W. Va.	708
Millboro, W. Va.	498
Marlinton, W. Va.	220
	1,586

The history of emigration or migration - Historic Markers, State Library.

County Seat - Marlinton, West Virginia.

First established in 1749 and known as Marlin's Bottom until 1887. Incorporated in 1900. Named for Jacob Marlin, one of the first white settlers to spend a winter in Pocahontas County, the other being Stephen Sewell, Edray, West Virginia. Named after a town in ancient Palestine, meaning a place surrounded. Settled prior to Revolutionary War by Thomas Drinnon. Famous camping place of Indians who broke up the Drinnon home, murdered his wife and carried his son away in captivity beyond the Ohio River. A stopping place mentioned by Bishop Francis Lebury in his journey from Maine to Georgia.

AGRICULTURE

A survey of the agricultural statistics of Pocahontas County reveals that in

1930, there were 1,614 people engaged in farming on 1,301 farms. In 1930 there were 330,824 acres of land in farms in Pocahontas County, which produced crops valued at \$832,283. The value of dairy products were \$44,738, and the value of livestock was estimated at \$1,377,497. (These above was taken from Rand McNally World Atlas, 1939).

Killing forests early and late made the working of land a precarious source of subsistence until a comparatively recent period in the history of our county. As late as ¹⁶¹⁰ 1640, the fact that corn would ripen at Merlin's Bottom enough to be fit for meal was nearly a year's wonder. Gardens for onions, parsnips, cucumbers, pumpkins, and turnips; patches of buckwheat, corn, beans, and potatoes, for many years comprised the post of pioneer farming enterprise in the way of supplementing their supplies of game and fish. The implements used for clearing and cultivating these gardens and truck patches were of home manufacture, and for the most part rudely constructed.

(These above was taken from The Historical Markers, State Library, State House.)

According to the Blue Book - 1938, the chief products and leading industries of Pocahontas County were as follows: The leading industry of Pocahontas County is lumber, tannery (sole leather). The chief products are: livestock, potatoes, oats, maple sugar, honey, and poultry.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Very much of Pocahontas County was heavily timbered and as the variety and quality was equal to most and surpassed by no other country in the State, before the west railroads were made on these timber resources in the last fifteen or twenty years.

Still there is an enormous supply yet remaining after all has been done by rafts, and loaded freight cars. For twenty years or more an interesting feature was or were the lumber camps here and there in the woods where hundreds of men were comfortably housed and fed on the fat of the land in various parts of the county, mainly east of the Greenbrier. On the higher elevations west of the Greenbrier and in the western

and northwestern part of the county are vast reaches of black spruce forests, now in such demand for wood pulp of which the paper is made of post cards, books, and newspapers. There remains much oak, cherry, poplar, chestnut and the more common forest trees in marked profusion.

The entire county from end to end east of the Greenbrier abounds in iron ore indications, principally the brown hematite and the reddish speculariferous.

(Above from Historic Markers -

MIGRATION OF PEOPLE

In reference to the ancestry of the people of Pocahontas County, it may be inferred that the citizenship is of a composite character, German, English, Irish, Scotch, and French.

Such names as they's, Lightner, Harper, Yeager, Arbogast, Herold, Hatterman, Burr, Hiple, Shoote, Casbolt, Shrader, Burner, Sydenstricker, Warner, Neversher, Oakley, Gann, Overholt, indicate German descent, etc.

Indians: There are evidences that the Indians once roamed through the thick forests of what is now our beautiful section of country. Pieces of flint have been found by our citizens which were no doubt used by the Red Race. There was an Indian burial ground on a flat above the road a short distance up the valley from I. B. Moore's dwelling. Indications were to the effect that several Indians had been buried here. It has been said that a few relics were found in later years when some excavations were made.

CRANBERRY GLADES

An intriguing bit of back Country in the Old Mountains of West Virginia which recently has been included in the Monongahela National Forest:

"Here is the botanist's paradise. Here among these mountains are found the "Cranberry Glades," a strangely misplaced tract of arctic tundra in the southern Appalachians. Here you will find a bewildering array of alders, shrubs, grasses and vines, a never-ending source of delight are the two thousand varieties of orchids, and the contrasted contrast upon the metallic green of the